

# THE PALESTINIAN LEGEND





# THE PALESTINIAN LEGEND

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**Afro-Asian Publications**

**(117)**





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## FORWORD

*All through 80 days of unparalleled savagery by the Israeli army equipped with the most sophisticated and lethal weapons levelled indiscriminately at fighters and civilians, refugees and populations, aged and infants, homes and hospitals all alike, after eighty days of the besiege of West-Beirut during which water, electricity and supplies were cut off, epidemics were rampant, children were famished, PLO fighters stood their ground, in their relatively few numbers and with only limited light arms, but surely with unlimited will and determination to fight back.*

*It is the legendary heroic struggle of the Palestinian People, and the Lebanese patriots that stopped the Israeli troops at the doors of Beirut, and defeated the US - Israeli calculations.*

*The world public opinion was indignant. It demanded that the aggression be checked, and the right of the Palestinian People to self-determination be respected.*

*Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee underlined this fact : "Throughout the moments of suffering, and in spite of the prevailing official silence, we have always realized and we are still confident that we are not alone in the struggle against the U.S. sinister designs."*

*It is to the just cause of the Palestinian people, and to the heroic struggle of their sole legitimate representative the PLO, that the AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO) dedicates this pamphlet.*





**Text of the cable sent by AAPSO**

**H.E. JAVIER PEREZ DE CULLAR  
UNATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL  
NEW YORK**

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**THE AFROASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION RECEIVED SHOCKING  
NEWS ABOUT THE BARBAROUS ISRAELI RAIDS OVER THE TOWNS AND  
VILLAGES AND PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON STOP THE AAPSO  
STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE REPEATED ISRAELI AGGRESSION ON LEBANESE  
TERRITORY AND POPULATED AREAS STOP URGES THE UNITED NATIONS  
ORGANIZATION TO PUT AN END TO ISRAELI AGGRESSION**

**ABDEL RAHMAN ELSHARKAWI  
PRESIDENT**

## **Text of the cable sent by AAPSO**

**MILITANT BROTHER YASSER ARAFAT**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE PLO**

**COMMANDER IN CHIEF — BEIRUT — LEBANON**

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IN THESE HISTORIC MOMENTS IN WHICH YOU LEAD A HEROIC RESISTANCE AGAINST THE BRUTAL ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE CITIES AND VILLAGES OF LEBANON AND THE POSTS OF PALESTINIAN MILITANTS, THE AAPSO REITERATES ITS FULL SOLIDARITY WITH YOU IN YOUR VALIANT CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISRAELI ENEMY STOP WE HAVE FAITH IN THE CAPABILITY OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION FORCES UNDER YOUR COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN THE CLOSE SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THE RANKS OF THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, IN DEFEATING THE ZIONIST ENEMY, DEFENDING THE LAND AND THE LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN HEROIC PEOPLE STOP IT IS A REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY.

**ABDEL RAHMAN ELSHARKAWI  
PRESIDENT**

## **Text of the Cable sent by AAPSO**

**MILITANT BROTHER WALID GUNBLAT  
CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE  
LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT BEIRUT, LEBANON**

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IN THIS HARD TIME IN WHICH THE SOUTH OF LEBANON, ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND THE AREAS OF PALESTINIAN MILITANTS, INNOCENT CITIZENS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FACE THE BRUTAL ARMED INVASION WAGED BY THE ZIONIST ENEMY FORCES, THE AAPSO REITERATES ITS FULL SOLIDARITY WITH YOU IN YOUR VALIANT CONFRONTATION WITH THIS BRUTAL AGGRESSION STOP WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THE FRATERNAL LEBANESE PEOPLE IS ABLE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL LEBANESE MOVEMENT AND IN CLOSE SOLIDARITY WITH THE MILITANT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE UNDER THE PLO, TO DEFEAT THE ZIONIST ENEMY FORCES AND FORCE THEM TO RETREAT STOP

**ABDEL RAHMAN ELSHARKAWI  
PRESIDENT**

**Press Release by AAPSO on June 9, 1982**

**IN SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLES OF LEBANON  
AND PALESTINE**

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With the critical situation in Lebanon, following the brutal and barbaric aggression of Israeli forces, AAPSO emphatically denounces the Israeli invasion, a flagrant breach of all international laws and human norms which brings to the entire region the hazards of a new outbreak.

The AAPSO having adopted a clear-cut unflinching stand vis-à-vis the Zionist entity, which constitutes a standing threat to the peoples of the region, particularly the brotherly people of Lebanon and the militant people of Palestine, and their legitimate right to defend themselves and their revolution — declares once more its full solidarity with the people of Lebanon under the leadership of their national movement as well as its unlimited support to the people of Palestine under the leadership of the PLO.

The purport of the flagrant full-scale invasion of Lebanon, planned beforehand and premeditated for a long time now, by the Zionist state, abetted and supported by world imperialism, is to crush the potentials of resistance of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples for the defence of the Lebanese territories and the glorious Palestinian revolution.

We call on the all Arab states and political forces to unite their ranks and to mobilise their potentials, to consolidate the steadfastness of the Lebanese people and the militants of the Palestinian People in defence of their territories and their revolution against the brutal Zionist aggression. We call on all the revolutionary forces in the world and the solidarity committees in Africa and in Asia in particular to step up their solidarity campaign in support of the people of Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution.

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation reasserts its ab-



solute faith in the scoring of a decisive victory by the forces of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, fighting in common cohesion and glorious solidarity against the barbarous Zionist aggressors.

We call for all-out sanctions against the Israeli aggressors in accordance with international law and accepted practice.

We urgently call for an immediate unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invasion troops, for an immediate end to the crimes of the Israeli aggressors against the lives and the lands in Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian people, for an international intensive action on both state and peoples' level, to safeguard the sovereignty, the territorial unity and integrity of Lebanon, and the legitimate inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

## **Extracts on the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon**

**FROM THE ADDRESS OF A.A.P.S.O.  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT  
DELIVERED BY NOURI RAZZAK HUSSEIN.  
Secretary General of AAPSO  
(24 June 1982)**

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Mr. Chairman,

These encouraging tendencies, however, come up against strong factors blocking or threatening to block progress in disarmament negotiations. During the first special session on disarmament in 1978, a NATO meeting in Washington endorsed a super-armament programme. With another NATO summit conference now held in Bonn, we hope that no new arms programme is in the making.

Still more critical is the explosive situation in the Middle East triggered by Israelis invasion of Lebanon, only one day before the opening of this special session. The idea now contemplated by various quarters in the West and not only held in Israel, that the military occupation of Lebanon can help achieve a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis, is not only at obvious variance with international law. It not only sets a precedent for a country like South Africa to act the same way. It is a direct threat to the success of this Special Session on Disarmament. It can very well jeopardise all efforts furnished so far to overcome the difficulties in the way of purposeful disarmament talks.

## **Statement of AAPSO on July 7, 1982**

### **ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

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The Israeli war machine still continues its war of aggression and genocide which it started on June 6, 1982 against both the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. With full US political and military support, Israel arrogantly defies the whole world public opinion which strongly condemns the Israeli invasion and demands the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Instead of forcing an Israeli withdrawal, the US administration tries, through its envoy Philip Habib, to mix all the cards, and enforce a Palestinian exodus from Lebanon, ignoring the crucial issue of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, its flagrant violation of international law and norms, and its insistence on imposing, by force, a puppet regime on a sovereign independent state.

The fact that the situation in the Middle East is deteriorating as a result of the Israeli invasion is self evident. It does not only threaten peace in this region, but also in the whole world. It is in this sense that safeguarding world peace and defending the rights of peace-loving peoples becomes a common responsibility of all peoples and governments.

The strong world condemnation of the Israeli aggression and the heroic resistance of the PLO and the Lebanese Patriotic and Progressive forces have checked the Israeli aggression at the doors of West Beirut. But it seems that the Israeli war lords have decided to achieve one of their goals of trying to liquidate the PLO and the Palestinian people through the systematic violation of the cease fire and the continuous barbaric bombarding of the Palestinian and Lebanese civilians besieged in West Beirut. Hence the realisation of the Israeli withdrawal becomes a matter of life or death for both the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The world peoples' forces should, therefore, intensify their solidarity activities with the victims of the Israeli aggression, and augment pressures on the US and Israel to put an end to this war, to withdraw the Israeli troops from Lebanon, to enable the Lebanese people to arrange their own affairs without external interference and to start real efforts to establish durable and just peace in the Middle East based on the UN resolutions.

In this context, AAPSO stresses the fact that no peace can be established in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people regain their national legitimate rights foremost their right to self-determination, and to establish their independent sovereign state under the leadership of PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.



## **Circular Letter to All AAPSO Member-Committees**

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Dear friends,

On July 13 and 14, 1982, the representatives of seven International Democratic Organizations held an Emergency consultative meeting in Geneva to discuss the current dangerously deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

At the end of their meeting the participants issued a joint statement which the AAPSO decided to circulate among all its member committees and friendly organizations.

The AAPSO appeals to all solidarity committees and organizations to express, with all possible means, their firm support to both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and to intensify their solidarity activities with the heroic resistance of the PLO and the Lebanese progressive forces against the barbaric war of aggression and genocide waged by Israel and fully backed by the US administration against the peace-loving Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

ABDUL RAHMAN EL-SHARKAWI,  
President

NOURI ABDEL RAZZAK  
Secretary General

## JOINT STATEMENT BY

- Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation
- Christian Peace Conference
- International Union of Students
- Women's International Democratic Federation
- World Federation of Democratic Youth
- World Federation of Trade Unions
- World Peace Council

## ON THE ISRAELI WAR OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE PEOPLES

Representatives of the above mentioned international organisations held an emergency consultative meeting on July 13 and 14, 1982 to discuss the current dangerous situation in Lebanon, which has arisen as a result of the barbaric war of aggression and genocide waged by Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

In the name of hundreds of millions of people, members of their organisations, the participants strongly condemn the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the war of mass annihilation and destruction in Lebanon. This war aims at the liquidation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Lebanese National Movement, at the establishment of a "New Political Order" in Lebanon acceptable to Israel and US imperialism and at the imposition of their expansionist policy on the region.

This invasion has led to the killing and wounding of tens of thousands of people, rendered hundreds of thousands homeless and caused widespread destruction in Lebanon, it marks a qualitatively new stage in the US-Israeli offensive against the Arab liberation movements and a new dangerous escalation of the US imperialist policy of confrontation.

That is why the representatives of the above mentioned international organisations express their full solidarity with the courageous struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples against the barbaric Israeli invasion. They pledge to render all forms of militant support to them to resist the aggression and to achieve their noble aims.

The emergency consultative meeting demands the immediate and

unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the safeguarding of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 508 and 509 and the resolution of the Seventh Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly of 26 June 1982.

The meeting reaffirms its total support for the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent sovereign State under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The unity of the Arab peoples and countries is an urgent necessity for the defeat of the Israeli aggression.

The meeting examined all possible forms of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and decided on a number of solidarity actions for the coming period, including a programme of aid to the victims of the Israeli invasion, concrete measures to expose Israeli war crimes and various activities in the field of information and humanitarian aid.

The meeting calls on all peace, liberation and democratic forces the world over to observe the month of August 1982 as an International Month for the Intensification of Solidarity Activities with the Palestinian and Lebanese Peoples.  
It urges them

- to organise demonstrations and undertake other protest actions against the genocidal Israeli war,
- to boycott, politically and economically, the Israeli aggressors;
- to collect massive assistance and to establish national solidarity funds for the Palestinian and Lebanese victims;
- to disseminate widely all information about Israeli crimes and atrocities.

**Circular Letter From AAPSO**  
**To All Heads of Non-Aligned States**

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Your Excellency,

The Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization has the honour to express its high appreciation of the decisions of the meeting of non-aligned coordination bureau of 15 July 1982 in Nicosia. The Bureau's decision to impose total and mandatory sanctions on Israel as long as it does not respond to the UN resolutions on Palestine has reflected the deep indignation of the non-aligned movement towards the Israeli flagrant aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

In defiance of the world public opinion and the UN resolutions, the Israeli armed forces are still occupying Lebanese territories, besieging and bombarding civilians in Beirut and threatening the Lebanese capital with unprecedented destruction.

With such an escalation, we believe, Your Excellency, that it is only relevant and within the context of international lawful practices to suspend Israel's membership to the United Nations and deprive it from attending the UN general assembly's special and ordinary sessions until it responds to the UN resolutions on Palestine and withdraws its troops from Lebanon.

We believe, Your Excellency, that with the majority they enjoy, the non-aligned countries can achieve this goal through the UN system.

Looking forward to your contribution to this end, allow us, Your Excellency, to express our highest consideration.

**NOURI ABDEL RAZZAK**  
Secretary General



# **TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC FIGHTERS OF THE P.L.O.**

**Press Release by AAPSO  
on August 23, 1982**

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On Saturday 21st of August 1982, the units of PLO fighters started evacuation from Beirut according to the agreement imposed by the US administration on the whole world, crowning the Israeli fascist invasion of Lebanon which started on June 6, and is still going on.

It could have never been imagined that the PLO fighters, and the Lebanese national forces, would continue alone and endless fight as the most effective force confronting the Israeli war machine which is greatly bigger in number and is far more equipped.

After a legendary heroic resistance against the genocide designed by the US administration and implemented by the Israeli army, for more than two months, the PLO leaders had to take the painful decision of evacuation, since the only alternative was the annihilation of west Beirut and its inhabitants. The world community had failed to make use of Palestinian Lebanese long resistance in West Beirut, in checking the aggression and imposing comprehensive settlement which could have contributed to the establishment of just and durable peace in the Middle East. This failure is in our opinion due first to the disunity of the Arab World, and to the ill-famed role of the USA in support of the Israeli invasion.

However, we should stress the fact that out of the destruction of West Beirut the PLO has emerged politically stronger while both the US and Israel have been internationally isolated, with their real ugly faces more apparent than ever.

The AAPSO believes that the Palestinian exodus from Beirut, far from contributing to the settlement of the internal conflicts in Lebanon, will complicate the situation in the Middle East. Israel is

expected to be more aggressive, and the US administration will continue its designs to dominate the Middle East through its Israeli military arm in the region and its veto right in the Security Council.

In other words more military and political aggressions should be expected, thus diminishing the possibilities of establishing peace in the near future, and endangering the world peace and security.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the experience of the last two months will create different conditions whether in the Arab World or in the world at large. This experience has no doubt convinced the Arab peoples that the just and durable peace they are longing for should be imposed on both Israel and the USA. This necessitates the building up of Arab capabilities in all fields, a goal that can never be achieved without the Arab Unity of action. The Arab masses are conscious enough and strong enough to launch an active struggle for this purpose.

At the international level, the world public opinion is now convinced that mere indignation and condemnation could not stop the aggression nor punish the aggressor.

In order not to live in a world ruled by the jungle laws, where a fascist state supported by an imperialist super power can defy the international indignation, the world public opinion will have to seek more effective means and methods to defend the rights of peoples and the interest of world peace and security.

The fact that few thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese could steadfastly resist with their light arms a big modern army which concentrated its attacks from air, land, and sea against a score of square kilometers in Beirut, will ever stand as an illuminating inspiring example of people's determination and courage. It is at the doors of Beirut and with the Palestinian gun that the myth of invincibility of modern sophisticated arms and the dignity of the US super power were smashed.

This in itself confirms that no peace can be established in the Middle East at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian People foremost their right to self-determination and the establishment of their

national sovereign state on their national soil, under the leadership of the PLO which gave to the whole world, through its steadfastness in Beirut, another proof of its being the sole legitimate representative and defender of the Palestinian People.

The Beirut battle ended by the conclusion of the evacuation agreement, but the Israeli occupation of Lebanon is perpetuating, and the Arab-Israeli conflict is acquiring more acute dimensions.

In this context, the AAPSO appeals to all national and progressive and peace loving forces in the Arab World and all over the world to react consciously to the changing situation so as to foil the US-Israeli schemes and restore the dignity of international law and order, otherwise the Beirut precedent will be applied in other parts of the world.

## **Text of a cable sent by AAPSO to Yasser Arafat**

**(23/8/82)**

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**Brother Yasser Arafat**

**Chairman of the PLO**

**Executive Committee.**

In these historic decisive moments, the AAPSO has the honour to convey to you our high esteem and admiration for your wise leadership of the struggle of the Palestinian people against the fascist war of genocide waged by the Israeli forces, with the flagrant support of the US imperialism against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. You were, alone, the most effective force, and the most honourable in confrontation with a brutal aggression and a mean US conspiracy. However, your big sacrifice and noble martyrs rebuffed the Israeli forces of genocide and foiled the US plot at the gates of Beirut.

Your legendary steadfastness, in such unfavourable Arab and international circumstances, provides a wonderful example of what the struggle of a people could achieve with a strong will and united leadership to defend their rights.

The Palestinian resistance forces leave Beirut, quite honourable, after a battle of two months duration in which they put an end to the myth of the invincible Israeli army and the prestige of the US as a super power supporting the Israeli aggression. Your wonderful steadfastness against an enemy superior in number and equipment, has won the admiration of the whole world, and isolated Israel and the US who, alone, stood in shameful defiance of the whole international will.

The AAPSO pledges to continue its utmost support, in all forms, to your firm struggle for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people at the top of which their right to self-determination, and the establishment of their national state on their national soil. The AAPSO hails

the souls of the noble martyrs who sacrificed their lives to stop the US-Israeli barbaric aggression, and hails the steadfastness and heroism of the great Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. In particular, the AAPSO hails your wise leadership and your firm stand in the front trenches.

IT IS A REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY !

**Nouri Abdel Razzak,**

Secretary General

**Abdel Rahman El-Sharkawi,**

President

## Text of a Letter from Yasser Arafat to AAPSO

27 August, 1982

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Brother Abdel Rahman El Sharkawi  
President of the AAPSO  
Brother Nouri Abdel Razzak  
General Secretary of the AAPSO  
Militant greetings.

I would like to thank you for your message of solidarity and support to the struggle of our Palestinian and Lebanese Arab peoples

The heroic battle through which the joint Lebanese and Palestinian forces have gone, and the steadfastness of Beirut and its confrontation with the Israeli military forces equipped with US sophisticated weaponry have proved, once more, that the oppressed peoples can defeat the most superior military forces and the most devastating weapons, by faith, will and resolution.

The Israeli invaders waged their aggression on Lebanon and declared that their purpose was to deal a blow to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese and Palestinian masses. The results of the massive ferocious war have proved that the Israeli aggressors failed to achieve their goals thanks to the great heroic steadfastness in the face of these gigantic invading powers. Broad masses, of basic denominations, have expressed their anger and condemnation to the criminal and brutal acts, the slaughters and genocide exercised by the Israelis against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

All through our sufferings, and in spite of the official prevailing silence, we have always realized that we are not alone in the struggle against the US sinister designs. If it was our fate to be the spearhead of this struggle, it is the battle of all peoples against imperialism, for freedom, independence and progress.

Thank you for your feelings and support. I wish the AAPSO all success. Together we march, until victory is achieved, to Palestine.

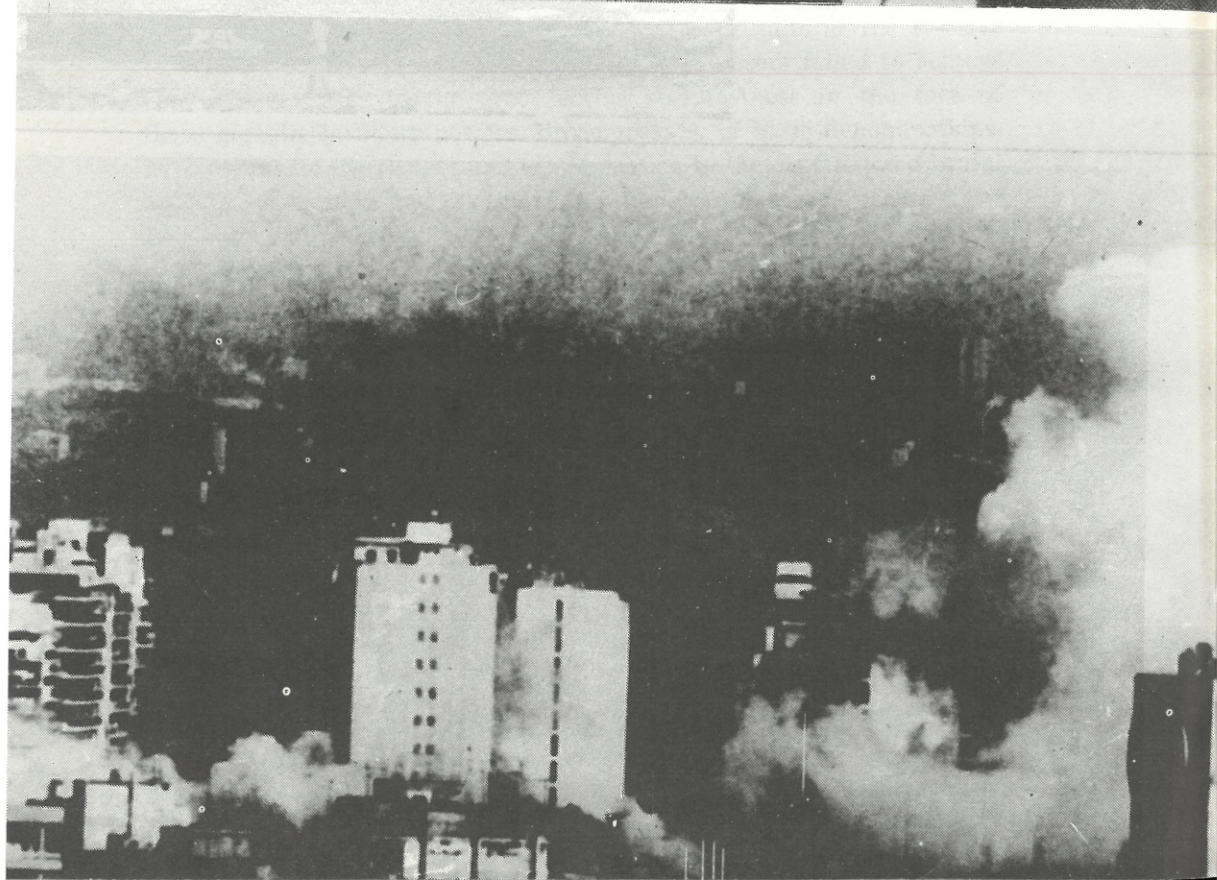
It is a revolution until victory.

**Yasser Arafat**  
Chairman of the PLO executive  
committee Commander-in-Chief of  
the Palestinian Liberation Forces

# THE INVASION













# THE ISRAELI ATROCITIES













# THE PALESTINIAN LEGEND







# **International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes Against The Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples Findings and Conclusions of the Commission**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On June 6, 1982, the regular Israeli troops invaded Lebanon and committed aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The goal of this invasion was to liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization primarily by killing as many Palestinians as possible. The aggressors killed, wounded and maimed dozens of thousands of the Lebanese and Palestinians, predominantly women, children and old people; thousands upon thousands of people are missing, while close to a million people have been left homeless or have been forced to flee from their native cities and villages. It was in cold blood that the invaders destroyed fourteen Palestinian refugee camps, three major cities in Southern Lebanon, and 32 villages.



The International Commission of Inquiry into the Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples met in Nicosia, Cyprus, on the 15th and 16th August, 1982. The Commission met at a time when events of an exceptional gravity such as to violate all rules of international law and to upset the human conscience are taking place in Lebanon due to the war of aggression and extermination made by Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The Commission is an independent body responsible for its own activities and decisions. Its members took part in the Commission as individuals, not as representatives of organizations or states. The functions of the Commission are to collect, hear and evaluate evidence of facts and events within the scope of the inquiry for which it is constituted and come to its conclusion on the evidence.

The Commission was much impressed with the quality, truth and integrity of the witnesses who gave evidence before it and of the authenticity and genuineness of the documents produced before it. In reaching its conclusions and findings, the Commission made it a point to be satisfied beyond doubt before doing so.

The Commission heard the evidence of a wide range of witnesses, many of whom had actually observed events in Lebanon. These included three members of the commission itself, Paulette Pierson-Mathy, Mikis Theodorakis and Hans Goran Franck, who were sent to Lebanon before the meeting, members of Scandinavian, Greek, Dutch, Canadian, Finnish and French medical teams, social workers and journalists who had worked in or visited West Beirut, and experts on military matters and on the lethal effects of the sophisticated weapons used by the Israelis in Lebanon and also witnesses from inside Israel.

The most detailed account of the effects of the invasion in South Lebanon came from the doctors and social helpers who had worked in Nabatieh, Sidon and the refugee camp at Ain El-Hilwa.

These described the terrible conditions of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, who fled while their homes were largely destroyed only to be further bombed in the refuges they had taken.

The doctors also gave the effects of different kinds of bombs, particularly cluster-bombs and phosphorus bombs, on men, women and children, and the total destruction of the livelihood of people already living near the edge of existence. Dr. Christos Yiannou and Mr. Oyvind Moller also described their arrest, together with that of Dr. Steiner Berge by the Israeli forces and their detention in Sidon and Megiddo. Though they were not themselves physically assaulted they witnessed the inhuman treatment of prisoners of Palestinian, Lebanese and other nationalities, bound after blind folded, forced to sit all day in the sun on tarmac surface, given very little food and water, frequently beaten. Several prisoners died during the four days they spent in detention in Sidon. Dr. Franklin Lamb gave evidences of the using of cluster bombs, phosphorus bombs, made in USA, against civilian population.

From the Commission members who visited West Beirut and the doctors and journalists who entered the city in the last few weeks came detailed evidences of the bombing of the city. The widespread indiscriminate character of the destruction was shown by many slides, examples of the different kinds of bombs used had been photographed or brought to us. Many slides were also shown of the terrible wounds inflicted by phosphorus bombs and cluster bombs; the doctors described the difficulties of treating the wounds. Burning phosphorus is hard to extinguish, it penetrates deeply and continues burning until the flesh



is charned and destroyed. It was clear that the large majority of wounded and dead were civilians; it was a feature of the destruction that there were more dead than wounded. Slides showed also the difficulties of living in a city arbitrarily deprived at intervals of food and water and electricity; long queues for water, children filling vessels at polluted pools.

From Israel itself came reports of growing development of opposition to the war; a majority of the people at present support it. News on television and in the press in Israel do not show the character of the war or the effect of the bombs as it is revealed in other countries. Only slowly is information being brought by returning soldiers.

There is a considerable number of international legal acts applicable to the crimes Israel has committed in Lebanon. On the basis of the Saint-Petersburg declaration of 1868, the Hague Convention of 1907 on the rules of the land war, the Charter of the International Military Tribunal of 1945 in Nuremberg, the Convention on the prevention of the crime of genocide and on its punishment of 1948, the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the First Supplementary Protocol of 1911, the Definition of aggression of 1974 and many other international legal acts. Israel violates the ban on resorting to force in international affairs proclaimed as back as 1928 in the Briand-Kellogg Pact.

The State of Israel and its Zionist are accused of the following criminal actions

- I — crimes against peace;
- II — crimes against humanity;
- III — war crimes, and
- IV — actions aimed at denying the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

### **I. — Crimes against Peace**

Having bombed and shelled and having seized a sizeable part of Lebanon, Israel went beyond merely violating the general prohibition of the use of force in international relations, as written in Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter. Israel has committed an aggression in

the sense as it is worded in the Definition of aggression adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1974, Resolution 3314/XXIX/.

The state of Israel and its leaders are accused of at least the following acts of aggression

a) invading or attacking with the armed forces of the state the territory of another state or any military occupation, provisional as it may be, resulting from such an invasion or attack, or any annexation through the use of force of the territory of another state or any part of it;

b) bombing by the armed forces of a state of the territory of another state or using any weapon by a state against the territory of another state.

c) blockade of the parts on the shores of a state by the armed forces of another state. Israel is committing a premeditated aggression and the occupation of the territory of a sovereign independent state, founder member of United Nations, and a direct interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon. We are forced to conclude that Israel is trying to install a "new order" in Lebanon serving its own interests.

It should be underlined that as stipulated by Article 5. Para 1, no consideration of any nature — political, economic, military on any other — can justify an aggression. In the light of this Article Israel's references to its right to resort to self-defence in conformity with Article 51 of the UN Charter appear absolutely groundless. This Article provides for a right to self-defence only in case of an armed attack on a UN member, and Israel was not the object of such action on the part of Lebanon. As to the actions of individual Palestinians to which the Israelis refer, once these actions, were justified as carrying out of their inalienable right to self-defence, as the UN General Assembly had denounced Israel's actions against the Palestinian people as an aggression (Resolution 36/226 of December 17, 1981). We can add that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon has grown since 1967, and has been based on an institutional convention called Cairo Agreements of 1969. The presence of the Syrian troops in Lebanon as a part of the Arab force of Dissuasion is based on the agreement concluded in the Ryad summit held on the 15th of October, 1976 (Saudi Arabia). Six states including Lebanon and the PLO signed that agreement. The demand for the protection of Arab troops has been made by the Lebanese president.

On that base every Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and the Syrian troops in Lebanon can be considered as an aggression against the sovereignty of Lebanon. This nature of Israel's actions was confirmed by the Security Council Resolution No. 509 of June 6, 1982 which demanded immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon.

The Israeli aggression has led to the occupation and vast indiscriminate destruction of the greater part of the independent Arab state of Lebanon. It has also endangered its political independence. The Israeli aggression has, concurrently with the above, become a serious threat to international peace and security.

Witnesses from inside Israel referred to the gradual change of unwinding taking place within an influential section of the people of Israel towards the hostile policy of their government to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The Commission is satisfied there is a rethinking among these sections about the justification and continuance of the aggression and brutalities committed by the invaders.

## **II. Crimes against Humanity**

Having committed an unprecedented act of aggression against independent Lebanon, the state of Israel and its leaders have carried on a course of genocide against the Arab people of Palestine.

According to the definition contained in Article II of the Convention on the prevention of the crime of genocide and on its punishment of December 9, 1948, genocide is defined as actions, committed with an intent to exterminate, fully or partly, a national, ethnic, racial or religious groups per se.

The Israelis have committed the broadest actions against the Palestinians which can be qualified as genocide.

The Israeli leaders do not conceal that the main aim of their actions is to liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization and to exterminate or disperse the Palestinian people as a historical and ethnical entity.

As a result of policy of genocide, the Palestinian inhabitants of Lebanon have been put into such a position as to endanger their very existence.

The overall direction of Israel's criminal activities is also seen from by the fact that, according to the witnesses and documents, all Palestinians males from 16 to 60 years of age have been taken prisoners.

They really are prisoners of war but were put into concentration camps where they are treated in a most cruel and degrading manner.

The Commission received eye-witness accounts of Israel maltreatment of Palestinian prisoners of war from members of a Norwegian medical team. The commission was informed of the extensive use of violence of regular and systematic beatings, of degrading and inhuman treatment, of physical and mental abuse against these men.

The methods of conduction military actions employed by the Israelis, their treatment of Palestinian prisoners of war, the new orders they brought in with them into Lebanon's occupied regions, contradict a whole range of norms of international law and, in fact, by their very nature are military crimes.

### **III. Deliberate War Crimes against the Civilian Population,**

#### **Bombing and Shelling of Peaceful Cities and Villages**

The conduct by the Israelis of military actions against the civilian population, bombing and shelling of peaceful cities and villages.

a) The Saint-Petersburg Declaration of 1868 which obliges both sides in a conflict to fight against the enemy's armed forces only;

b) Article 25 of the Statement supplemented to the Hague Convention of October 16, 1907 which prohibits attacking open or non-defended cities;

c) Article 6 of the "B" Section of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal in Nurenberg which equates the destruction of cities and villages to a military crime;

d) Article 48 and subsequent Articles of the First Supplementary Protocol of June 8, 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 on protecting war victims.

e) Resolution 2444 Session and 2675 Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which prohibit military operations against the civilian population.

The three member groups of our commission who visited Lebanon confirmed that as a result of the operations of the Israeli army, substantial parts of Beirut, Tyre, Nabatieh and Sidon, as well as of many other places, were destroyed, and whole camps of the Palestinian refugees were razed from the face of the earth. Over 600,000 Lebanese were left homeless, and the occupied territory of Lebanon has been plunged into a critical situation. According to a report compiled by UN observers, some 300,000 Lebanese citizens and not less than 83,000 Palestinians urgently need aid and assistance.

## **2. Use of the Cluster, Phosphorus Fragmentation and Other Bombs**

The use of the cluster, and phosphorus bombs, and of some other weapons is a violation of the Saint-Petersburg Declaration of 1868 and the Hague Convention of 1907. They prohibit the use of arms which cause unnecessary human suffering. Quite recently these weapons were expressly added to the Supplementary Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

All witnesses stated that these horrendous weapons of mass destruction were widely used by Israel in Lebanon, and the overall majority of those who have suffered from them were peaceful civilians. We heard rumors about even more fighting devices such as the vacuum bomb; we have the duty to inquire further about these weapons.

## **3. Bombing of Hospitals and Clinics, Protected by the Red Cross or Red Crescent Insignia**

This is a violation of one of the oldest rules of the humanitarian law. This is reflected in a number of documents, particularly in Articles 18 and 23 of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, on the protection of the civilian population in case of war.

The Israeli military obstructed even the International Red Cross from rendering aid to the Palestinians and the population of Beirut.

**4. Cutting off Food, Water and Energy and Essential Medical Supplies from the Civilian Population**

This represents actions against the civilian population prohibited by humanitarian conventions, namely by Article 1, Para I of the Supplementary Protocol which prohibits the causing of hunger among the civilian population as a method of conducting warlike actions.

Such Israeli actions were confirmed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution of July 30, 1982. The Security Council demanded in that Resolution that the government of Israel should immediately lift the blockade of the city of Beirut, so as to permit supplies necessary to satisfy urgent needs of the civilian population and to allow the distribution of aid delivered by UN Agencies and by non-governmental organizations, especially by the International Red Cross Committee (IRCC).

**5. Article 51, Para 2 of the Supplementary Protocol Prohibits Acts of Violence or Threats of Violence Primarily Aimed at Terrorizing the Civilian Population.**

The Israeli leaders widely used threats of violence, especially during the siege of Beirut.

**6. The Refusal to Grant POW Status to Palestinian Fighters Violates:**

Article 4 of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war.

The Commission was informed that this Israeli government is denying prisoner of war status and treatment to the Palestinians despite the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization reaffirmed their intention to abide by all Geneva Conventions by informing the Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister on 7th June, 1982 of their intentions.

The non-granting to Palestinians of POW status also runs counter to the UN General Assembly Resolutions, such as No. 3103 (XXVIII) of December 12, 1973 which demands that this status be granted to

those persons who fight against foreign occupation for their right to self-determination.

**7. Cruel Treatment of Palestinians, Both Combatants and Civilians, Captured by the Israeli Forces.**

This violates some basic provisions of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war and the Geneva Convention on protecting the civilian population in case of war. Article 13 of the former contains general provisions that prisoners of war should always be treated humanely. It is prohibited in particular to maim them.

**8. Preventing the Authorities in the Occupied Territories to Execute Their Functions.**

Such actions violate Article 54 of the Convention on protecting the civilian population in case of war which forbids the captor power to alter the status of officials or judges.

**9. The Israelis Systematically and Purposefully Shelled and Destroyed the Beirut-Based Diplomatic Representations of the USSR, the CSR, Bulgaria, France, Algeria, All Arab Embassies, Canada, which Traditionally Enjoy Protection at Times of Armed Conflicts.**

**10. The Destruction of Monuments and Cultural and Scientific Institutions.**

This violates the provisions of the Hague Convention of May 14, 1954 and Article 53 on protecting cultural values in case of armed conflicts.

The Israelis have committed exactly such actions in Lebanon.

The Israeli planes systematically and quite deliberately destroyed the buildings of the Arab University and the Exhibition Hall of the works of art and culture of Palestinian painters.

**11. Violation of Other Traditional Rules of Conducting Military Actions**

The international law prohibits, in particular, any perfidious actions (see Article 37 of the Supplementary Protocol).

The Israeli troops on numerous occasions perfidiously violated ceasefire to re-group their forces, to replenish their supplies and to fortify the captured positions, only to perfidiously violate the ceasefire after that.

#### **IV. — DENYING THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

Since, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, on December 14, 1960, the Declaration granting independence to former colonial countries and peoples, any subjugation of peoples to foreign yoke and domination, any military actions or repressive measures against peoples fighting for their right to self-determination should be viewed as a grave international crime. All the more since the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1974 adopted the Resolution (3236) confirming officially the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Israel and its leaders, by their systematic actions, primarily by their use of military force, aimed at denying the right to self-determination and setting up their own state to the Palestinian people, and by their occupation of the territories that belong to this people, have committed just this crime.

#### **V. — INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

##### **A. The USA as an Accomplice in Israel's Crimes**

The United States are internationally responsible for the violations of international law by Israel because of the support they are rendering to Israel in committing the above international crimes.

This support included :

- 1) military aid through shipments of arms and modern technology, while the US-Israeli Memorandum on strategic cooperation signed last year provided for coordinating their operation in the Middle East;
- 2) economic aid through granting gratuitous assistance and very big loans;
- 3) on the political and diplomatic plane, direct support of the



Israeli aggression as reflected in the use by the United States of their veto right in the Security Council when the USA vetoed Resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and refused to vote for a UN General Assembly Resolution denouncing the Israeli aggression.

More than 50% of the Israeli exports go to the EEC, where they receive preferential custom rates and credit benefits. This form of economic support to a state which continues with aggression and occupation of Lebanon constitutes a form of indirect support. Obviously precedents show that aggression is met with immediate sanctions. We call upon USA and EEC in particular to take action in helping with what has been done before.

#### **B. On the Responsibility of the Organizers and Inspirers of the Crimes in Lebanon**

The above-mentioned international legal norms violated by Israel are binding upon it either on the treaty basis (the Geneva Conventions, with regard to Israel, came into effect on June 6, 1951), or because these norms have been formed on the habitual basis and have by now become a composite part of the modern general international law, compulsory for all states without exceptions.

Israel's responsibility acquires an even graver character due to its refusal to implement the compulsory decisions of the Security Council.

The general legal principle of the inevitability of responsibility for the committee offenses should be applied to international crimes on even stricter basis, because they jeopardize international peace and security and lead to incalculable economic, moral and ethic losses for the countries and peoples and undermine the entire international law and order.

The International Commission in dealing with Israel's aggression in Lebanon takes the view that a special relationship exists between the UN and Israel since Israel was the only state that has achieved statehood and acquired territory through an act of the United Nations. Israel was the only state in the world which had sprung into existence

at the summons of the international community. The resolution admitting Israel to the UN categorically stated that the state of Israel unreservedly accepts the obligations of the UN Charter and undertakes to honour them. Israel has therefore special responsibility and an international duty to subscribe to and adhere to the UN Charter and decisions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly and observe international law. Any violation of the Charter and international law by Israel is indefensible.

## CONCLUSIONS

The International Commission demands the immediate ending of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the ending of the siege and blockage of West Beirut and the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon; we demand an end to genocide of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and further demands the immediate release of all prisoners of war. The International Commission denounces and condemns the crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes, violations of international law and actions aimed at denying the right to self-determination to the Palestinian people by Israel.

The International Commission warns that all those guilty directly or indirectly of transgressions and violations of international law and crimes against humanity will have to answer for them before the bar of international justice.

The International Commission consistent with the well-known rule that a criminal must repair the damage, he has done also demands that Israel should be made to pay full reparations.

The International Commission appeals to all governments and their leaders, to non-governmental organizations, to all religions of the world, to the Parliaments of the world, to the trade unions and to all peoples to express their solidarity and render material, diplomatic, political and moral support to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The Commission in particular appeals for urgent medical aid and supplies and humanitarian aid for the victims of aggression.

The International Commission declares that no just and perma-

nent peace can be achieved in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws totally from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and unless the Palestinian people are granted their inalienable right to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state and the recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and guarantee the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

The Commission owes a deep debt of gratitude and thanks to the government and people of Cyprus for the ready cooperation and assistance given to it to hold its sessions at short notice in the city of Nicosia and for the warm welcome and hospitality it has received.

## **APPEAL**

### **To the soldiers and officers of the Israeli army**

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Since the day of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon the world has witnessed horrible acts of terror untold suffering and loss of life of the Palestinian and the Lebanese people. The Israeli invasion army is taking part in a brutal criminal action. Palestinian and Lebanese peoples have been facing an unprecedented onslaught by the Israeli army air force and warships.

Israeli government arrogantly openly advertises its intention for the annihilation of the Palestinian people and for indiscriminate destruction. Thousands of civilians, elderly people and children are burnt to death or buried in the ruins of buildings flattened by the most sophisticated internationally banned destructive weapons.

The international commission in its first session in Nicosia (Cyprus) 15th to 16th August 1982 received new testimonies of these savage crimes.

Those activities constitute a flagrant violation both of the International Law and of the humanitarian principles universally accepted since the end of the World War II. Therefore, the Commission considers its duty to remind you that such violations even when committed on the orders of the highest military authorities do not absolve the responsibility of those who have committed the violations, before their own conscience and before the humanity.

All this is clearly based on historical precedents which cannot be erased.

We call on your conscience to help to stop this abominable war in Lebanon in which you are involved. You cannot ignore the grave consequences of this war to the martyred two peoples, the Lebanese and the Palestinian.

Think about all this for the sake, also of the Israeli people and for the future of all humanity.

# **INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES**

## **APPEAL TO THE CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORLD**

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As we have listened for two full days to testimonies and examined documents about the war going on in Lebanon it appears that the cruelty, inhumanity and brutality of war have become even greater than we have known before. Innocent civilians, women and children have been killed in thousands. Hundreds of thousands have lost their homes and are threatened by hunger and diseases and yet may not escape. Life is a sacred gift, entrusted to man. No nation and no individual may violate the human right to live. The whole world cannot just let cruelty continue. For religious people the situation in Lebanon must be a strong challenge to show what their religious commitment is worth. We must demand an immediate stop to cruelty and to raise this question in the utmost urgency with our churches and our governments. We must force the responsible authorities immediately to conduct serious, honest and efficient negotiations. The needs are enormous. Now love must follow in the tracks of brutality and hatred. Prayers must take reality in forms of practical aid. Strong protests must be heard against cruel weapons like phosphorus and cluster bombs. To be silent about the brutality and the continuance of this war make us all accomplices in the cruelty.

Now the time has come to let the prophecy be fulfilled, the prophecy about swords being turned into plough shares and spears turned into wineyard knives. It lies in our hands to make that prophecy come true.

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

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Heading of the International Association of its Helsinki address

Mikko Lohikoski  
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Tel. : 640223

An appeal to medical workers of the whole world to recognise that hideous-modern weapons are being used against civilians in West Beirut and that medical and other essential supplies are being cynically cut off by the forces now besieging that part of the city.

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We have heard witnesses in Nicosia on 15th and 16th August 1982 and have received convincing evidence that three modern weapons, all banned by recent International Conventions, are being used extensively by the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

These weapons are designed to injure and destroy exposed civilians and not protected troops or buildings. They are the phosphorous, the cluster and the fragmentation bomb. Some of the types were tested in Vietnam and were at once banned.

A number of doctors and medical workers from Greece, France, Scandinavia, Canada and Holland had direct personal experience of treating the resulting wounds and one investigator was able to show more than 100 affidavits from doctors in 19 hospitals in West Beirut who had attempted to treat sufferers from the phosphorous or the cluster.

"While phosphorous" is highly flammable and poisonous. When the bomb or shell explodes it sprays out the contents which liquifies and

ignites and moves at high speed over a considerable area. It burns into living flesh and feeds upon the oxygen in the tissue. Its passage and its treatment cause intense pain and danger. Bodies have continued to smolder internally hours after death and cases are known where it has continued for three days. The wounds are most difficult to treat or heal.

The cluster bomb canister may contain up to 450 small bombs which are spread over a 100 metre radius. Those small bombs then explode either on impact or by design when interfered with. They emit up to 100 small shots each at very high speed and table height. They would have been suitable against the mass attack of infantry in World War I but wasted on protected soldiers. They are ideal for destruction of exposed civilians and for children on the day after the attack or against reserve teams at the time.

The new type of fragmentation bomb emits at high speed thin, as it were, wings of metal which penetrate deeply and destructively. These result in amputations at a distance or untreatable internal injuries.

There is ample evidence that all these weapons are deliberately used against wholly civilian areas and in daylight against well marked hospitals.

The city is besieged by a ring of Israeli armour and ships. There is no entry for medical supplies or food without their leave and leave is withheld.

Supplies of blood, plasma and oxygen and basic medicine are stopped at the gates of West Beirut in the sight of all concerned. Even the International Red Cross and relief organisations have not been able to overcome the difficulties.

This is total blockade. There is a cynical starving of the people and of the hospitals and no hinterland for retreat. And the bombardment goes on.

We call upon all.

# **INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES**

(NICOSIA, August 15 - 16, 1982)

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## **MEMBERS of the PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE of the COMMISSION**

- Mr. John Platts-Mills — Queen Counsellor of U.K.
- Mrs Dorothy Mary Crowfoot-Hodjkin — Scientist, Nobel Price LAUREATE, U.K.
- Mr. Dhirubhay A. Desai — Member of the Supreme Court of India
- Mr. Mikis Theodorakis — MP, Greek Composer
- Mr. Boubacar Seck — MP, Member of Political Bureau, Socialist Party of Senegal
- Fieldmarshal Francisco Da Costa Gomes — Former President of Portugal
- Pirkko Tyolajarvi — MP, Vice-Chairman, Social Democratic Party of Finland

## **SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMISSION**

- Mr. John Platts-Mills — Queen Consellor of U.N.

## **MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT**

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- Mr Alexander Berkov — P.M.D. (Constitutional Law) USSR
- Mr Gerhard Stuby — Professor of International Law — FRG



## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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- Dr Florence Hetzler — Professor of Philosophy, U.S.A.
- Mr Miguel D'Estefano Pisani — Professor of International Law — Cuba.
- Mr Willi Sommerfeld — P.M.D. International Law — GDR
- Mr Jules Borker — Lawyer — France
- Mr Slavtcho Transki — MP, one of Leaders of resistance against Fascism during the Second World War; Herc of Bulgaria
- Mr Ervin Reti — Expert on Middle East Problems, Hungary
- Mr. Ernie Ross — MP, Labour Party — U.K. (Observer)

## REPORTERS AND WHITNESSES

- Mr Hans Goran Frank — Advocate, Sweden
- Mr Albert Farhat — Advocate, Lebanese National Movement
- Mr Sinane Barrage — Advocate , Lebanese National Movement
- Mr Rudolf El-Kareh — Lawyer, Lebanese National Movement
- Mr Taysir Quba — Member of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation
- Mrs Leena Saraste — Photographer — Finland
- Mr Mikko Lohikoski — Journalist — Finland
- Miss Pirkoo Parviainen — Physiotherapist — Finland

- Dr Claude Pierre Lien — Medical Doctor — France
- Dr Jean-Yves Follezon — Medical Doctor — France
- Mrs Marianne Moller — Social Worker — Norway
- Mr Oyvind Moller — Social Worker — Norway
- Prof. Israel Shakak — Professor of Biochemistry, President Israeli League for Human Rights
- Mr Joseph El-Ghazy — Secretary — Israeli League for Human Rights
- Mrs Tineke Vlug — Nurse — Netherlands
- Dr Constantinos Alexiou — Surgeon — Greece
- Dr Loukas Floros — Medical Doctor — Greece
- Dr Thanasis Parageorgiou — Medical Doctor — Greece
- Dr Christos Yiannou — Surgeon — Canada
- Dr Franklin Lamb — Lawyer — USA

# **INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES**

## **CONSTITUTION STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO THE ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES**

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The International Commission of Inquiry into the Israeli crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples, constituted on this 14th to 15th day August 1982 in Nicosia, Cyprus will be ruled and guided by the following provisions :

### **Rule 1 :**

The Commission is an independent body responsible for its own activity. Its members take part in the Commission as individuals not as representatives of organizations or nations. Participation in its hearings by observers from governmental or nongovernmental organizations is welcomed.

### **Rule 2 :**

Being an enquiry body the function of this Commission is to collect, elucidate and evaluate facts and events within the scope of enquiry set forth in those statutes by means of conscientious investigation.

Thus, the Commission shall not be regarded as a court. It has neither the power nor the competence of a court. Its authority lies in the quality and in the integrity of the work it performs. The only sanction at the disposal of the Commission is the moral judgment of humanity to whose verdict it submit itself and its work.

**Rule 3 :**

The Commission shall deal with all questions it deems proper, concerning Israeli crimes against Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

**Rule 4 :**

The Commission will use all methods of work enabling it to draw conclusions on the basis of comprehensive and reliable information about the occurrence and extent of acts and events within the scope of the subject matter referred to Rule 3 of these statutes.

**Rule 5 :**

The Commission shall elect among its members a Presidential Committee and shall appoint a permanent secretariat headed by a Secretary-General.

The proceedings of the Commission shall be conducted by the Presidential Committee which will normally provide a chairman of meetings.

**Rule 6 :**

The Commission has the right to co-opt new permanent members, as well as local members to take part in sessions in any particular country or region. All members have equal rights. A decision to co-opt requires a 2/3 majority of those present at the session.

**Rule 7 :**

In its work the Commission shall

- a) consider reports, documents, oral witnesses and other proof material received from any international or national organisation as well as from individuals.
- b) send mission for investigation and inspection.
- c) undertake the maximum cooperation with other Commissions or organisations with similar objectives and with other specialists or experts on the subject.

**Rule 8 :**

The Commission may form standing or temporary sub-committees shall be headed by a member appointed by the Committee and may included other specialists or experts on the subject. Heads of temporary sub-committees shall be appointed by the secretariat in consultation with the presidential committee.

**Rule 9 :**

Preparations for the sessions of the Commission shall be made by the secretariat of the Commission. The Secretariat is responsible for the exception and implementation of the decisions of the Commission.

**Rule 10 :**

The proceedings of the Commission shall be public, with the exception of meetings concerning organisational matters or meetings devoted to the evaluation of evidence material and to the formulation of the findings of the Commission.

**Rule 11 :**

The Commission shall hold sessions in appropriate places in different parts of the world.

**Rule 12 :**

For the continuation of its activities : meetings, missions of investigation, publications etc. the Commission will appeal to governmental and nongovernmental bodies, as well as individuals for voluntary donations.

**Rule 13 :**

The statutes may be amended by a 2/3 majority of the members of the Commission.

Nicosia, August 14 - 15th, 1982



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